

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS



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P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

Spring/Summer, 1988 No. 6

FIFTH ANNUAL CLAMBAKE SCHEDULED AUGUST 5

This will be the third year we will be having our clambake on Rose Island. (You're an original supporter if you can remember the first two years when the Museum of Yachting hosted the event at Fort Adams before we even had title to the lighthouse!).

Because of the unusually large number of birds which nested closer to the lighthouse this spring (attacking our volunteers with gusto), we decided to postpone the clambake a month and give the birds a break. Hopefully by Friday, August 5 the babies will have had a chance to grow to the point where mamma and papa aren't so protective!

The Menu

We look forward to welcoming members and friends--both old and new--to another wonderful clambake extravaganza of hors d'oeuvres, salad, lobsters, mussels, sweet corn, bread and butter, iced tea, lemonade and desserts--all donated or supplied "at cost" by local purveyors and restaurants and prepared on site by Chef Christopher Barlow. (We will also offer beer and wine for an additional contribution of \$1 each.)

Details, Details

Parking and transportation are provided at Fort Adams and are included in the \$20 per person ticket cost. Only 200 tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, so we hope to hear from you soon! Please mail in your payment and reservation information using the form at the end of this newsletter.

We'll board "Patriot" at the Fort Adams launch dock, which is close to the information center and the public rest rooms, between 5:00 and 5:30 pm. The return trips are scheduled to leave Rose Island beginning around 7:30.

We will have a small port-a-pottie on Rose Island, but that doesn't mean you wouldn't be smart to use the shoreside facilities before you head out!

This is a sit-on-the-ground party, so you are advised to bring a blanket and some warm clothes. We ask that you do not bring any

dogs out to the island for this event, as they have caused either bird or food problems in the past.

Rain Date

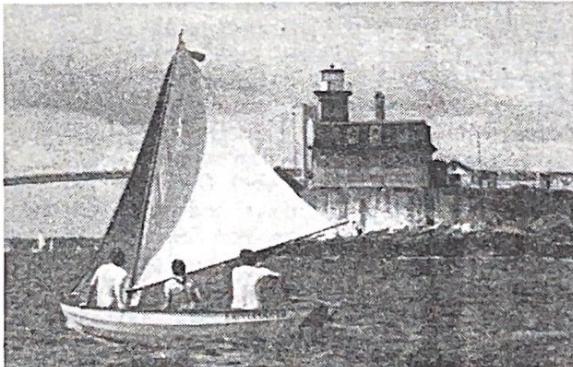
In case of rain, we'll try it again on Saturday, August 6. We'll announce the postponement over WADK AM 1540 on Friday morning, you can also call Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454 for the information. All other arrangements will remain the same, only the date will be changed.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed before the clambake on Saturday, July 30, as well as Wednesday, August 3 to pick up debris along the beach, gather wood for the clambake fire, clear paths, mow the lighthouse lawn and do other basic set up chores.

On Clambake Day (Friday, August 5) we'll need one person with boat experience to help with the launch, getting people on board and handling the boat with the captain. Starting around 9:00 am, we'll need three volunteers to collect food and equipment from the various suppliers around town and get everything out to Rose Island and set up. Then we'll need three cook's helpers and servers, plus two people to tend the bar. Finally, we'll need two volunteers to help Chef Barlow clean up pots and pans the next morning.

Please call Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454 to volunteer as a clambake helper.



TAFF ROBERTS will be sailing his dory "John L. Cooper to the Clambake on Friday, August 5.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

On Sunday, May 22, 1988 at 3:00 pm., President Curt Bunting welcomed about 75 members and friends to the annual meeting, held at the Naval War College Museum, which was also exhibiting "Lighting the Way-- Lighthouses of Narragansett Bay."

(Please see the related article on Sen. Chafee's keynote address.)

The minutes from the 1987 annual meeting were approved as read by Secretary, Charlotte Johnson.

\$74,000 Fundraising Goal

Gary Esposito presented the Treasurer's report saying that we had \$38,000 in our combined checking and savings accounts. He reported an estimated \$112,000 will be needed to complete the restoration, including the lighthouse, dock, museum and grounds work. With \$38,000 on hand, our goal is to raise an additional \$74,000 to complete the work so that the lighthouse is ready for the 1989 lighthouse bicentennial celebrations.

Board Elections

Curt Bunting reviewed the makeup of the Board of Directors which is comprised of 20 members who are either appointed or elected. This year, 9 people are appointed from Founding Organizations, 3 are appointed by the City, and 8 are elected by the general membership, which was the job at hand.

Therefore, the general membership proceeded to re-elect Dana Magee, Hugh Whittle, Glenn Gardiner, Larry Allen, Curt Bunting and Gary Esposito. In addition, Charlotte Johnson and Chris Barlow were elected by the general membership. (Ms. Johnson had previously served on the Board as an appointed director from Island Ecology, which is no longer a Founding Organization).

Mr. Bunting named the other board members who are appointed, including:

Alfred L. Angel - Newport Taxpayers Assoc.
Bruce T. Bartlett - Newport City Staff
Vic Farmer - Friends of the Waterfront
Sid Gorham - Ochre Point Association
John H. Howard - Point Association
Patrick G. Kirby, II - Hill Association
Dr. Neil Leerssen - Agassiz Beach Assoc.
Edward W. (Ned) Smith - Museum of Yachting
Ann Twomey - 5th Ward Improvement Assoc.

Christopher Zepp - Newport City Staff
Mr. Bunting also recognized and welcomed the newly-appointed director from Save the Bay, Mrs. Hope Drury Goddard, who replaces Virginia Wood, who is now living in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. The Newport City Council had not yet made their appointment to the board, replacing Laurice Parfet.



WE'VE GOT A WAYS TO GO! But this is what the lighthouse looked like circa 1915. Photo provided from the collection of Paul Stedman.

President's Report Renovation Program Highlights

The President's report was delivered by Mr. Curt Bunting. He reported that final approvals were still not in hand for the septic system (from the DEM and CRMC) and from the Army Corps of Engineers for the permanent dock, but that approvals were expected soon and work could proceed full bore once the actual permits were in hand.

The audience was alternately informed, concerned and amused as Mr. Bunting gave a summary of the work already completed at the lighthouse, the work in progress and a description of the various non-conventional systems we will be using, including a composting toilet and solar panels.

Renovation Plan

The lighthouse building will be returned to the way it appeared shortly after the addition was put on in 1912, when the fog horn building was also built, he said.

Because of the vandalized condition of the building when we inherited it, we had to remove all of the interior plaster, plumbing, wiring and are in the process of replacing a few rotted beams.

New windows and doors of the 1912 period will be installed, along with clapboard siding on the first floor and cedar shingles on the second-floor mansard. Sewage disposal, which previously consisted of "a 6-inch pipe that went out into Narragansett Bay and ended," will be replaced by a greywater septic field and a composting toilet, plus chemical toilets for the public in the summer time. Pitcher pumps will provide fresh water from the cistern in the basement.

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Both high and low voltage wiring systems will provide electricity via solar panels, wind generators and a small generator. Heating will be by coal and wood stoves, plus diesel oil.

And once the necessary permits are in hand and the interior is on its way to being completed, the search for a keeper will begin.

Outside the lighthouse, the large metal cistern (installed around 1940 by the Coast Guard) needs to be cut up and removed before basic landscaping can be done. Also, the sea wall and the small outbuildings need repair.

Finally, the first floor will be furnished just as it was around 1912 and will be opened as a museum, hopefully by next spring, in time for the 1989 lighthouse bicentennial celebrations.

Special Recognitions

Bob Dennis got a hearty round of applause for his lighthouse models which were on display as part of the exhibit "Lighting the Way-Lighthouses of Narragansett Bay." And Sarah Gleason of the R.I. Parks Association (Beavertail Light) was recognized, along with Mrs. Marie Carr, (now in her 80's) who had lived on the Southeast Light at Block Island with her husband. Special thanks were offered to Tony Nicolosi, Director of the Naval War College Museum, and his assistant Mrs. Ruth Kiker who helped enormously with arrangements for the meeting.

In addition, thanks are offered to Jane Benson, Rowan Howard, Corky Ackman, Arva Bunting, and Dorothy Eschenheimer for providing food and decorations for a most enjoyable meeting.



CURT BUNTING signed up volunteers Dan Smith and Sarah Gleason at the Annual Meeting.

WELCOME A-BOARD, RONALD DICK!

We are happy to announce that Councilman Ronald Dick was appointed by his fellow councilors to RILF's Board of Directors. We look forward to having Ron and his family join us at our first official function since the Annual Meeting. See you at the clambake!



RILF Member Richard Grosvenor, Senator John Chafee, and Board Member John Howard at our Annual Meeting at the Naval War College.

SENATOR CHAFEE SPEAKS AT ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCES NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY

On Sunday, May 22, we were honored to have Senator John H. Chafee join us for our Annual Meeting at the Naval War College Museum.

In his address, Chafee praised the supporters of the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation for their efforts to "preserve this endangered species."

The Senator also said Rhode Island will receive \$48,000 to aid lighthouse preservation as a result of legislation he and Senator Pell introduced. He's hoping for three times that amount next year.

1989 Bicentennial Celebrations

He also told of his resolution to establish August 7, 1989 as National Lighthouse Day, in celebration of the first public works law of our nation when, 200 years ago, President Washington signed into law a bill establishing the federal role in maintaining lighthouses. As part of the festivities, the U.S. Lighthouse Society is planning a national bicentennial lighthouse celebration in September, 1989. Newport has been chosen for the site!

Chafee also noted that 1989 will mark the passing of an era, when the Coast Guard will decommission the last of the keepers of the lights and replace people with automated, high-tech beacons.

Chafee said, "Through your tireless efforts the Rose Island Lighthouse is being saved in much the same spirit as it once saved great vessels over a hundred years ago....Today you are returning the favor through your constant dedication and work to renovate the lighthouse. I applaud your efforts."

And we thank YOU, Senator Chafee!



BOB ZIEGLER needs volunteers to help!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER WORKPARTIES

Weather permitting, every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-4:00 and every Saturday morning from 8:00-noon, Curt Bunting heads up a volunteer workparty that leaves from the Oldport launch dock and heads out to Rose Island.

If you've seen the lighthouse lately, you've noticed that the exterior has received a lot of attention, and more is to come. Obviously, carpenters and quasi-carpenters head the list of volunteers needed most at this point to go out and give Bob Ziegler a hand in stripping the old siding materials, repairing or replacing the sheathing underneath, putting in new window and door frames, and installing new clapboard, shingles and trim. Then come the painters!

On the interior, we're down to the basement, which is the last on the list to be cleared of the old plaster, wiring, plumbing and debris. When that is finished, and as soon as our permits are in hand...the reconstruction of the interior can finally begin! Then we'll be looking for some more carpenters, an electrician or two, a plumber or plumber's helper, plasterers and painters.

Once the septic field is in, landscapers and gardeners will be needed.

For those more boat-oriented, we've just purchased a surplus 36-foot Navy LCVP (landing craft) to get materials (like 30 tons of rock and gravel for the septic field) and equipment out to the island. The LCVP is now in New Bedford and needs about a week's work to have it cleaned up, painted and rewired before it's brought to Newport.

Did you see a place where you could pitch in? We'd all like to see keepers in this building BEFORE WINTER, but it's not going to happen without a lot of help.

To offer to help as a volunteer (obviously preferred) or as a contractor at a reasonable rate, please contact Curt Bunting at 846-4198 to make arrangements. If Wednesdays and Saturdays aren't suitable, let us know so other arrangements can be made to get you and your friends out to give us a hand.

THE SEARCH FOR LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS BEGINS

We are looking for Keepers who will help us achieve our goal to operate and maintain the Rose Island Lighthouse and its surrounding grounds as an open, public, historic site to be enjoyed by the present and future citizens of the City of Newport, its surrounding communities and by visitors to the State of Rhode Island.

We particularly like the family concept of keeping as demonstrated by civilian Keepers and their families in the Lighthouse Service, and would prefer to have a family or a stable couple to take on this year-round job as a team. We are also looking for alternate Keepers who can stay at the lighthouse for a week or two at a time if the regular Keepers need a break.

Responsibilities

The Keepers will be responsible for general maintenance, cleaning and upkeep of the lighthouse, the light, the Keeper's quarters, the museum and its furnishings, the outbuildings, grounds, summer garden, and the dock on a day-to-day basis. (Considerable volunteer labor can be anticipated for major building and landscaping projects.) At least one of the Keepers will regularly attend Board meetings. Regular reports to the Executive Committee (which oversees all of the work) are required, and a daily log must be maintained.

While basic property maintenance and keeping the light burning at night will be consistent year-round chores, work at the lighthouse will most likely fall into two extreme categories: routine (in the winter), and hectic (in the summer).

Volunteers will be organized to work at the museum during the busiest times of the tourist season from June through October. As Foundation ambassadors, however, the Keepers will need to be able and available throughout the year to greet the public, answer questions about all aspects of the project, and, in general, be hospitable to those who come ashore for a visit. In addition, the Keepers must be relied upon to handle some of the Foundation's funds and will be directly involved in both new and continuing fundraising projects, including member solicitations, the annual clambake, and winter get-togethers. The Keepers will also need to be familiar with all phases of the museum operation and with the history of the lighthouse and her past Keepers.

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Skills Needed

The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation is looking for multi-faceted folks who are resourceful, out-going, intelligent and independent, who can make a year's commitment and will be responsible for traditional lightkeeping chores, at the same time adapting to and maintaining a unique, ecologically-sensitive environment and being able to answer visitors' questions about it as well as the other, more obvious aspects of the lighthouse/museum complex.

Desired skills include: property management and maintenance, basic carpentry, household utilities repair, administration, record keeping, bookkeeping, public relations, resource conservation, ecological systems maintenance, boat handling, gardening, and First Aid. In addition, boat maintenance and wildlife management would be helpful.

Job Particulars

Keepers and alternate Keepers will be hired by the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation (RILF) and will work for a contract price--between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per year for Keepers--depending on their ability to provide necessary services to the Foundation. Keepers and alternate Keepers will receive the 1099 form at the end of the year for tax purposes. RILF will provide housing in the 2 or 3-bedroom second floor apartment, plus basic launch service (weather permitting).

How to Apply

Since we are looking for a family or a team, we need information about each person who will be involved. People interested in either the Keepers' or alternate Keepers'

positions should send their resume along with a job proposal before August 30, 1988 to:

Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation
Keeper Search Committee
P.O. Box 1419
Newport, RI 02840

The job proposal should include the names, ages, financial requirements, qualifications and the amount of time each person can commit to the project. Finally, each person should send a statement why they want to be a Keeper of the Rose Island Lighthouse.

Initial interviews will begin September 15. It is our goal to have Keepers in residence before winter and to have the museum completed in time for the 1989 Lighthouse Bicentennial.



DOROTHY AND PAUL STEDMAN of Long Island heard about our restoration plans when a friend sent them a newspaper clipping about our raffle. Turns out, Paul lived at the Rose Island lighthouse with his grandfather, Jesse Orton during summers from 1919 until 1941.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE

Memberships for this fiscal year run from July 1 to June 30, 1989. If you haven't already done so, we sincerely hope you will renew your Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation membership.

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-----detach here-----

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

- I would like _____ number of tickets @ \$20 for the Annual Clambake \$ _____
- My/our membership dues are enclosed for the year ending June 30, 1989
in the following category: New Renewal
 \$5 Individual \$25 Business \$250 Supporting
 \$10 Family \$100 Contributing \$500 Founding \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____
- Enclosed is my additional contribution of..... \$ _____

NOTE: Contributions to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purpose. Please mail this form with your payment to:

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840

RILF MEMBERS FEATURED IN TWO DOCUMENTARIES

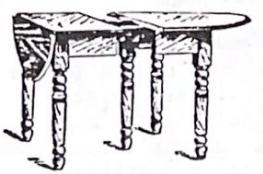
Two new lighthouse documentaries are now available on VHS video tape. Marking the end of the era of manned lighthouses, both documentaries deal with the history of lighthouses in general, their keepers and different people's attitudes about how automation will change public perception of these lovely ladies of the sea.

RILF member Sarah Gleason of the R.I. Parks Association is featured in David Witkower's 17-minute documentary called "Sentinels of the Sea".

Susan Peters' made-for-TV film called "Lighthouses of New England" has already been aired on Connecticut Public Television during the week of June 22. It should be shown on Rhode Island Public TV this fall, but no definite date has been set at this time.

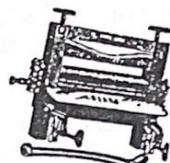
Susan's film includes interviews with RILF members Marie Carr, Brian Sullivan, Wanton Chase, Charlotte Johnson, Sarah Gleason and Curt Bunting. Also, Bob Ziegler is shown working at the lighthouse.

We thank Wanton Chase for donating a copy of the film to RILF. It is available for rent by calling Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454.



MUSEUM FURNISHINGS NEEDED

We are organizing a search committee to locate furniture and furnishings which either were at the lighthouse or might have been there prior to 1912. Please contact Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454 if you wish to volunteer your time, furniture or funds for this part of the lighthouse project.



ROSE ISLAND
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